## A Proposal for Funding for Local Business in Attracting Tourists Through the Austin Independent Business Alliance Presented by

Rebecca Melançon Executive Director

Austin Independent Business Alliance 512-441-2123 rebecca@ibuyaustin.com www.ibuyaustin.com • www.austinibiz.com

April 25, 2017



Austin's unique local businesses attract tourists. Even ACVB uses our vibrant local business community to attract both tourists and conventions. Google 'tourists Austin' and scan through the thousands of photos. There's not one photo of a chain store. But there are lots of photos of local businesses.

Local Business provides the culture, the vibe, the fun, the uniquely Austin flavor. Local business also provides sales tax dollars, 85% of the job growth and keeps 3 times the money circulating in our local economy.

Take a look at these sample pages from ACVB's Visitor's Guide. What do you see? Local businesses. Why? **Because local business sells Austin.** 



## 5 Reasons to Give AIBA.5%

- 1. We are the only organization in Austin that represents locally owned, independent businesses
- 2. We represent local business throughout Austin, not just downtown
- **3**. AIBA's 8 IBIZ Districts are tourists destinations. With 2 (soon 3) in East Austin, 2 (soon 3) in South Austin, 1 in West Austin, 1 in North Austin and 2 in Central Austin, we cover the city. These districts have won an IEDC Award for the city in neighborhood economic development.
- **4**. AIBA is a nationally respected leader in the local movement. As the oldest city-wide independent business alliance in the Nation, we have the experience, vision and organization to successfully create and complete projects and programs directed to tourism. AIBA is also familiar with the reporting and accountability functions of city administered funds, having various contracts over 9 years.
- **5**. Local business sells Austin. By investing in programs and events that market our local businesses to tourists, we build on the very thing tourists come here for. Let's keep the local business thriving so we can continue to attract travelers to what makes Austin, Austin.